

NOV 24 1948

In reply refer
to 2-73

5.4

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief, Map Research Branch
Army Map Service

FROM: Chief, Map Branch

SUBJECT: International Boundaries Between Canada and
Labrador

This is in reply to your request of September 23, 1948, for a check on the international boundary between Canada and Labrador and the reference for Labrador as represented on the four sheets of the Air Charts, scale 1:1,000,000.

The legal basis for this boundary is the opinion handed down by the Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council on March 1, 1927. The description of the boundary as given in this opinion is as follows:

... the boundary between Canada and Newfoundland in the Labrador Peninsula is a line drawn due north from the eastern boundary of the bay or harbour of Ance Sablon as far as the fifty-second degree of north latitude and from thence westward along that parallel until it reaches the Romaine River, and then northward along the left or east bank of that river and its head waters to their source and from thence due north to the crest of the watershed or height of land there, and from thence westward and northward along the crest of the watershed of the rivers flowing into the Atlantic Ocean until it reaches Cape Chidley

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Great Britain, Privy Council, Judicial
Committee, In the Matter of the Boundary
Between the Dominion of Canada and the
Colony of Newfoundland in the Labrador
Peninsula (12 vols), London, 1927,
Vol. 12, p. 1026.

According to the information available in this Branch, the boundary has never been demarcated on the ground. The boundary shown on the four Air Charts agrees substantially with the description quoted above. If the hydrography and elevations are represented correctly on the charts, there are a few places where the boundary symbol cuts across drainage areas and thus does not follow the Privy Council description. Corrections have been inserted in red at these points. We have not, however, attempted to check the accuracy of the drainage pattern. It is advisable to retain the words "Boundary Indefinite" which now appear on the Air Charts.

Although it is not wrong to use the designation "Labrador (Newfoundland)," as is done on Charts 179 and 222, it would be desirable to have the country and subdivision references uniform on opposite sides of the boundary, as on Charts 111 and 145. Thus, on Charts 179 and 222, we suggest that you place "Labrador" opposite "Quebec" and "Newfoundland" opposite "Canada."

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It is probable that Newfoundland, including Labrador, will be incorporated into Canada within the next year. When this takes place the present international boundary between Quebec and Labrador might become a province boundary.

[Redacted]

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Chief, Map Branch

Encls: 4
World Aeronautical Charts,
Nos. 111, 145, 179, 233.

E/ [Redacted] hn

16 November 1948

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cc: Central Records
Map Branch (3)

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